

(a) whether grievances raised by the affected people of Suwamarekha Project and Koel-Karo Project in South Bihar have been mitigated;

(b) details of the proposed compensation/land against land and employment to the displaced people;

(c) whether there is any provision to provide employment to the oustees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d).

SUWARNAREKHA PROJECT

The Suwamarekha Hydro-electric Project was commissioned 20 years ago. The Government of Bihar authorities have informed that for construction of this project about 1500 acres and 22 acres of land was acquired in 1965-67 and in 1980-81 respectively. All the land losers were paid compensation. They have also informed that initially there was no provision to provide employment to oustees of this project on a compulsory basis. But, now, of late, a large number of persons are claiming employment as land losers. Until now 24 land losers have been given employment on phase according to requirement and suitability.

KOEL-KARO PROJECT

This project is being executed by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation.

For mitigating the grievances raised by the affected people of the Koel Karo Project, the proposed rehabilitation plan and compensation package includes homestead land for every displaced family, cultivable land to

the extent possible on lease basis, besides full compensation in cash for their land as well as property such as house, trees, wells, etc. It also provides for employment to the oustees in Class-III, IV or Clerical Posts depending upon their suitability and availability.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

5295. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the life of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is ending on March, 31, 1992; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to extend the tenure of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited beyond March 31, 1992?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Sir, the validity of the licence granted to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for operating telecom services in Delhi and Bombay is expiring on 31.3.1992. The licence is being extended for a further suitable period.

Vayudoot Services for Postal Articles

5296. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: SHRI DHARMABIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department is considering to hire the Vayudoot services for transport of mails and postal articles from Delhi to other places and vice versa;

(b) whether any decision has been arrived at;

(c) the time by which this system is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the extent to which it will help to improve the postal services and the proposed expenditure to be involved in this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A proposal to this effect is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d). In view of (a) above does not arise.

Revival of river Board Act

5297. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to Revive the River Board Act for amicable and meaningful settlement of river disputes among the different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be

finalised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). River Boards Act was enacted by the Parliament in 1956 and is in force. A river board can be set up in consultation with interested State Governments, through notification under the provisions of the existing Act.

Vanadium Ore Reserve

5298. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of vanadium ore in the country and the locations thereof;

(b) the production of vanadium metal or its alloy in the country; and

(c) the demand for vanadium alloys in the country and in the international markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The estimated total reserves of vanadium ore in the country are as under:-

<i>State/District</i>	<i>Reserves (In 000 tonnes)</i>
Karnataka	8,842
Hassan	162
Shimoga	8,680
Maharashtra	6,200
Bhandara	
Orissa	3,460